as well as pay scale of a clerk (LDC) and that of Section Officer in Government of India are as follows:

(i) **Pay Scales in banks**

Clerical Staff: 3020-135-3425-225-4100-320-5380-340-6400-380-7920-680-8600-380-8980.

Officers in Junior Management Grade Scale I: 7100-340-12540

(ii) **Pay Scales in Government**

Clerk (LDC) 3050-75-3950-80-4590.

Section Officer: 6500-200-10500.

(b) Pay Scales of Bank Employees/Officers and Central Government Employees/Officers are not comparable because they are made effective from different dates; are build up by merger of Dearness Allowance (DA) at different levels etc. While the Pay Scales of Government Employees were made effective from 1-1-1996 and are based on DA merger at 1510 points, the revised pay scales of bank employees have been made effective from 1-11-1997 and are based on merger of DA upto 1684 points.

Import Duty on Foodgrains

†3905. DR.D.MASTHAN:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased import duty on foodgrains during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of such goodgrains alongwith the rate of import duty fixed thereon; and

(c) the dates of fixing the above import duties and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the rates of basic customs duty have been increased on certain foodgrains. The names of foodgrains and the rates of duty fixed are given below:

1. Wheat—50%,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. Spelt—50%,

3. Maize (corn)—50%,

4. Rice in the husk (Paddy or rough)—80%,

5. Husked (brown) rice—80%,

6. Semi-milled or wholly milled rice whether or not polished or glazed—70%,

7. Broken rice—80%,

8. Grain sorghum—50%, and

9. Millet—50%.

These changes are expected to discourage the import of these foodgrains. While duty was imposed on wheat with effect from 1-12-1999 in order to stimulate its off-take from the Central Pool, in other cases the increase was carried out on 5-4-2000.

Illicit Drug Trafficking in North-East

3906. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th February, 2000 under the caption, "North-East, Indo-Pak Border emerging as centres for drug trafficking";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken to check illicit drug trafficking in these areas; and

(d) whether any multi-dimensional approach has been finalised in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir. An article was published in the Hindustan Times of 24-2-2000 under the title "Delhi major hub for drug trafficking".

(b) to (d) India's geographical location between Pakistan and Myanmar makes it a vulnerable transit route for smuggling. But Government of India